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V CORPS TASK FORCE HELPS TIKRIT FIREFIGHTERS WITH DONATION OF MORE THAN \$80,000 IN FIREFIGHTING GEAR

By Capt. Tim Crowe

Task Force 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division

TIKRIT, Iraq — Iraqi firefighters here have new personal safety equipment and turn-out gear, thanks to the Soldiers of V Corps' Task Force 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division.



PHOTO COURTESY TASK FORCE 1-18 INFANTRY
Soldiers of V Corps' Task Force 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, help Iraqi firefighters from the Tikrit Fire Department into some of the \$80,000 in new protective equipment the task force recently purchased for the department.

In April, Capt. Aaron Coombs, the commander of Company C, 1/18th, learned that the members of the Tikrit Fire Department were well trained and had several new fire trucks. However, Coombs also found that they lacked the personal equipment to safely and efficiently perform their duties. The battalion's Task Force Vanguard turned to the Commanders Emergency Relief Program for help.

To meet the fire department's needs, the task force ordered more than \$80,000 worth of turn-out equipment for the firefighters. The order was placed with the same vendor that provides the equipment to the New York Fire Department. The

order was for 20 complete firefighter uniforms, including helmets, jackets, pants and boots, as well as several entry tools such as door rams and pry bars.

The firefighters were very happy with the new equipment.

"It means a lot to know that you have enough confidence in us to give us such nice equipment," said Tikrit Fire Chief Col. Nazir.

